



STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



ARNOLD
SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

For Meeting Date: November 13, 2008

Agenda Item No. 13: Presentation of Select 2008 SMARA Surface Mine Inspection Reports for Ten Active Surface Mining Sites for Acceptance Consideration by the State Mining and Geology Board.

INTRODUCTION: The State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) serves as the lead agency under SMARA for forty-eight (48) individual mining operations located in two counties (El Dorado County and Yuba County), eleven (11) San Francisco Bay dredging operations, and ten (10) cities that do not have mining ordinances. SMARA inspection reports for ten surface mining operations are being presented for acceptance consideration.

MINE INSPECTION REPORTS FOR THE SMGB'S ACCEPTANCE CONSIDERATION:

The 2008 SMARA mine inspection reports to be presented at the SMGB's November 13, 2008, regular business meeting for acceptance consideration by the SMGB are as follows:

- Richmond (Chevron) Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-07-0006), City of Richmond.
- Pt. Richmond (Canal) Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-07-0007), City of Richmond.
- Cool Cave Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0005), El Dorado County.
- Marin Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0015), El Dorado County.
- Big Gun Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-31-0013), City of Rocklin.
- Knife River Construction (formerly Baldwin) Hallwood Plant (CA Mine ID #91-58-0002), Yuba County.
- Teichert Hallwood Facility (CA Mine ID #91-58-0006), Yuba County.
- Parks Bar Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-58-0013), Yuba County.
- Silica Resources, Inc. Stringer Pit #1 (CA Mine ID #91-58-0022), Yuba County.
- Silica Resources, Inc. Stringer Pit #2 (formerly Garcia Sand & Gravel), (CA Mine ID #91-58-0023), Yuba County.

A summary of violations and corrective measures per surface mining operation is presented below.

Richmond (Chevron) Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-07-0006): At time of inspection, October 16, 2008, three ongoing violations were noted:



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- The west-southwest facing quarry cut slope shows evidence of failure and is considered to be potentially unstable.
- Mining-related activities (slope instability features) are beyond the footprint of the approved reclamation plan.
- Revegetation of the quarry slopes does not meet the criteria set forth in the approved reclamation plan.

The following corrective measures are noted:

- The west-southwest facing cut slope requires continued monitoring for overall slope stability and mitigation of failures observed at time of inspection. Such work should continue to be performed by a California licensed geotechnical engineer and/or certified engineering geologist.
- The revegetation efforts should continue to be implemented to meet the criteria set forth in the approved reclamation plan.
- The existing approved Reclamation Plan does not reflect current operations (i.e., recycling facility), and requires updating and clarification for completeness. An amended reclamation plan for the site should include scaled maps, sections and other pertinent illustrations, current and future phased areas of operations/reclamation, erosion control measures, grading plan (if required), revegetation plan and complementary performance standards.
- The financial assurance amount should be re-evaluated, and adjusted as appropriate, to reflect mitigation of the unstable west-facing cut-slope, remaining mining-related disturbance, reclamation of the existing recycle material stockpile, potential additional revegetation efforts, monitoring requirements, and current labor, fuel, and equipment rates.

Point Richmond (Canal) Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-07-0007): No Violations were noted at time of inspection, October 16, 2008.

Cool Cave Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0005): No Violations were noted at time of inspection, September 15, 2008.

Marin Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0015): No violations were noted at time of inspection, September 22, 2008; however, the following corrective measures are offered:



- Maintenance of sediment and erosion control structures on and adjacent to the southern and western fill slopes should continue on a regular basis. Such maintenance should specifically include regular grading of the intervening bench on the southern and southwestern fill slope.
- When expansion of mining commences in the future, all topsoil should be stockpiled in a designated demarcated area in a manner consistent with criteria stated in the approved Reclamation Plan.

Additionally, it is recommended that if mining operations are not anticipated to resume during 2009, than an Interim Management Plan (IMP) should be prepared and submitted to the SMGB for review and approval consideration per PRC Section 2770(h).

Big Gun Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-31-0013): The following violations were noted at time of inspection, October 15, 2008:

- Annual slope stability inspections by a qualified professional have not been conducted as required in Section 1.8 of the Management Plan included as part of the Interim Management Plan.
- Erosion control monitoring has not been performed by a qualified professional as required in Section 2.0 of the Management Plan included as part of the Interim Management Plan.
- The existing financial assurance mechanism is deemed inadequate, and a revised financial assurance cost estimate has not been submitted to the SMGB during the past year.

The following corrective measures are offered:

- A slope stability inspection by a qualified professional should be conducted as required in Section 1.8 of the Management Plan included as part of the Interim Management Plan.
- Erosion control monitoring should be performed by a qualified professional as required in Section 2.0 of the Management Plan included as part of the Interim Management Plan.
- A revised financial assurance cost estimate should be submitted to the SMGB for review and approval, followed by an acceptable financial assurance mechanism.



Knife River (formerly Baldwin Hallwood) Plant (CA Mine ID #91-58-0002): One violation was noted at time of inspection, October 1, 2008, regarding the need for an updated financial assurance for the subject site.

Teichert Hallwood Plant (CA Mine ID #91-58-0006): No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection, October 15, 2008.

Parks Bar Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-58-0013): No violations were noted at time of inspection, September 17, 2008.

One corrective measure was noted at time of inspection regarding the existing tension cracks observed in overburden placed to the west and east of the quarry area. The overburden areas affected by the tension cracks should be repaired as soon as possible per recommendations offered by GEOCON Consultants, Inc. in their site reconnaissance letter dated July 28, 2008.

Silica Resources, Inc. Stringer Pit #1 (CA Mine ID #91-58-0022): No violations were noted at time of inspection, September 17, 2008. However, the amount of disturbed acreage continues to be significantly understated and needs to be correctly stated in future mining operation annual reports.

Silica Resources, Inc. Stringer Pit #2 (formerly Garcia Sand and Gravel) (CA Mine ID #91-58-0023): No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection, September 17, 2008.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION: The Executive Officer recommends that the SMGB accept the ten 2008 SMARA mine inspection reports, and transmit the findings contained herewith to their respective local lead agency and each mine operator.



SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:

To Accept Ten 2008 SMARA surface mine inspection reports:

Mr. Chairman, in light of the information before the SMGB today, I move that the SMGB accept the ten 2008 SMARA mine inspection reports, and transmit the findings to the respective local lead agencies and each mine operator. These sites are the Richmond (Chevron) Quarry, Point. Richmond (Canal) Quarry, Cool Cave Quarry, Marin Quarry, Big Gun Quarry, Knife River Construction (formerly Baldwin) Hallwood Plant, Teichert Hallwood Plant, Parks Bar Quarry, Silica Resources, Inc. Stringer Pit #1, and Silica Resources, Inc. Stringer Pit #2.

Respectfully submitted:

Stephen M. Testa
Executive Officer

